Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03041 220432Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 L-03 RSC-01 DRC-01 /028 W

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R 220136Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3216

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3041

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BCOM, AS

SUBJ: INVESTOR-RELATED SERVICES

REF: A. STATE 045120 B. CANBERRA 1836

- 1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER INQUIRY FROM WELL-KNOWN US INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM BAKER & MCKENZIE, CHICAGO, ADDRESSED TO THE QUOTE AMERICAN CONSUL AT CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA END QUOTE REQUESTING LIST OF QUOTE (A) LOCAL LAWYERS, AND (B) ACCOUNTING FIRMS THAT ARE IDENTIFIED BY YOU AS BEING CAPABLE AND WILLING TO RENDER LEGAL SERVICES OR ACCOUNTING SERVICES, AS THE CASE MAY BE, TO AMERICAN CORPORATIONS. FIRMS THAT ARE CAPABLE OF CORRESPONDING IN ENGLISH WOULD NATURALLY BE OF MOST INTEREST TO US. END QUOTE. LETTER IS SIGNED BY PETER B. POWLES.
- 2. WHILE EMBASSY, AS STATED IN REFTEL (B) HAS COMPLETED IT INVENTORY OF INVESTOR-RELATED SERVICES AND IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED INFO, FIRM'S INQUIRY STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT ODD. BAKER AND MCKENZIE HAS OFFICE IN SYDNEY (IT IS INCLUDED IN CONGEN SYDNEY'S LIST OF ATTORNEYS PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A) WHICH WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED TO BE VERY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH LEGAL AND ACCOUNTING FIRMS IN THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CENTERS IN AUSTRALIA. WE UNDERSTAND PETER B. POWLES IS UNCLASSIFIED

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BAKER & MCKENZIE PARTNER SPECIALIZING IN AUSTRALIA WITH

CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN-COUNTRY. FINALLY, REFERENCE TO QUOTE FIRMS CAPABLE OF CORRESPONDING IN ENGLISH END QUOTE LEADS US TO BELIEVE INQUIRY MAY BE FORM CIRCULAR ADDRESSED TO NUMBER OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS THROUGHOUT WORLD. WE THEREFORE WONDER IF DEPARTMENT WOULD WISH TO HANDLE IT IN MANNER ANALOGOUS TO THAT EMPLOYED IN THE CASE OF CIRCULAR TRADE INQUIRIES (A-1047, FEBRUARY 6, 1974).

- 3. INFO POSTS, IN EVENT THEY HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR BAKER AND MCKENZIE INQUIRY, MAY WISH TO DELAY RESPONSE UNTIL DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO THISTEL IS RECEIVED.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE WHETHER IT WANTS EMBASSY TO FURNISH LISTS OF ATTORNEYS AND ACCOUNTANTS DIRECT TO BAKER & MCKENZIE OR WHETHER IT PREFERS MATTER BE HANDLED ALONG LINES OF A-1047 PROCEDURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1974CANBER03041 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D740127-0131 From: CANBERRA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740528/aaaaayhp.tel Line Count: 78

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION COME Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: A. STATE 045120 B. CANBERRA 1836

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: garlanwa Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 OCT 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 OCT 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2003 by garlanwa>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INVESTOR-RELATED SERVICES

TAGS: BEXP, AS To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005